

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A golf putting aid comprising:
first and second attachment structures;
an upper alignment member disposed between and attached to the attachment structures; and

a lower alignment member disposed between and attached to the attachment structures, such that the alignment members are vertically aligned to define a vertical plane which is perpendicular to a putting surface.

2. The golf putting aid of claim 1, wherein the alignment members are flexible.

3. The golf putting aid of claim 1, wherein the alignment members are non-adjustable in the vertical plane which is perpendicular to the putting surface.

4. The golf putting aid of claim 1, further comprising a target attached to the first attachment structure.

5. The golf putting aid of claim 4, wherein the target has an opening which is centered with respect to the vertical plane, and wherein the opening is at least as large as a regulation size golf ball.

6. The golf putting aid of claim 5, wherein the target is removably attached to the first attachment structure such that the target may be replaced with another target.

7. The golf putting aid of claim 1, further comprising at least one support member attached to the attachment structures for supporting the attachment structures perpendicular to the putting surface.

8. The golf putting aid of claim 7, wherein the at least one support member is bowed downwardly towards the putting surface.

9. The golf putting aid of claim 7, wherein the at least one support member is bowed downwardly towards the putting surface such that at least a portion of the support member is disposed lower than the lower alignment member.

10. The golf putting aid of claim 7, wherein the at least one support member is compactable such that when it is desired to store the putting aid, the putting aid occupies less space.

11. The golf putting aid of claim 10, wherein the at least one support member contains a hinge such that when it is desired to store the putting aid, the at least one support member rotates about the hinge, such that the putting aid occupies less space.

12. The golf putting aid of claim 11, wherein the alignment members are flexible such that when the at least one support member is compacted, the alignment members are compacted.

13. The golf putting aid of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of reference markers to be used by a golfer as reference points during the golfer's putting stroke, wherein each reference marker is slidable along one of the upper alignment member and the lower alignment member.

14. The golf putting aid of claim 13, wherein the plurality of reference markers includes a back swing reference

marker to be used by the golfer to aid the golfer in determining when to terminate the golfer's back swing, a follow through reference marker to be used by the golfer to aid the golfer in determining when to terminate the golfer's follow through and a ball placement reference marker to be used by the golfer aid the golfer in positioning the golf ball on the putting surface and concentric with the ball marker, such that a center line of the ball is vertically aligned with the vertical plane.

15. A golf putting aid comprising:
 first and second attachment structures;
 an upper alignment member attached to the attachment structures; and
 a lower alignment member attached to the attachment structures such that the alignment members are vertically aligned to define a vertical plane which is perpendicular to a putting surface, wherein at least one of the first and second attachment structures contains a pointed lower end for insertion into a putting surface.

16. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the alignment members are flexible.

17. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the alignment members are non-adjustable in the vertical plane which is perpendicular to the putting surface.

18. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the putting aid is longitudinally adjustable such that the putting aid may be used to practice putts of varying lengths.

19. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the second attachment structure has an upper opening through which an upper alignment member extends and a lower opening through which the lower alignment member extends such a distance between the attachment structures can be varied by moving the second attachment structure relative to the alignment members.

20. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the alignment members are compactable, such that when it is desired to store the putting aid, the putting aid occupies less space.

21. The golf putting aid of claim 15, wherein the alignment members are flexible.

22. The golf putting aid of claim 15, further comprising a plurality of reference markers to be used by a golfer as reference points during the golfer's putting stroke, wherein each reference marker is slidable along one of the upper alignment member and the lower alignment member.

23. The golf putting aid of claim 22, wherein the plurality of reference markers includes a back swing reference marker to be used by the golfer to aid the golfer in determining when to terminate the golfer's back swing, a follow through reference marker to be used by the golfer to aid the golfer in determining when to terminate the golfer's follow through and a ball placement reference marker to be used by the golfer aid the golfer in positioning the golf ball concentric with the ball marker such that a center line of the ball is vertically aligned with the vertical plane.

24. A method for aiding a golfer in putting a golf ball comprising:

providing upper and lower alignment members defining a vertical plane, which is perpendicular to a putting surface and in line with a target line;

positioning the golf ball on the putting surface under the alignment members such that a centerline of the golf ball is aligned with the target line;

aligning a line of sight of the golfer with the vertical plane, such that the upper alignment member obscures the lower alignment member; and

swinging a putter and hitting the ball while aligning the line of sight of the golfer with the vertical plane, such that the upper alignment member obscures the lower alignment member.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

aligning an aim line of the putter such that the alignment members obscure the aim line of the putter; and

maintaining both the alignment of the golfer's line of sight and the alignment of the aim line of the putter during a putting stroke.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising providing a ball reference marker and aligning the golf ball such that the ball reference marker obscures a center point of the golf ball when the golf ball is positioned on the putting surface.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a back swing reference marker for guiding a back swing, and providing a follow through reference marker for guiding a follow through.

1 47774/MEG/A662

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the putting stroke
includes swinging the putter back until the back swing
5 reference marker obscures a portion of the putter and swinging
the putter forward until the follow through reference marker
obscures a portion of the putter.

10

10004-1-0330
2020

25

30

35